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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
10 AT SEATTLE

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 GREGORY RALPH ROBERTSON,

15 Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:15-cr-00033-TL

ORDER DENYING MOTIONS TO
SEAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE

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18 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant Gregory Ralph Robertson's motion to
19 seal Defendant's letter to the Court (Dkt. No. 123). Having reviewed the relevant record, the
20 Government's response (Dkt. No. 126), and the governing law, the Court DENIES the motion.

21 In brief, Defendant filed a motion to seal a letter he wrote to the Court in which he raised
22 concerns with an occurrence in the courtroom during a hearing. Dkt. No. 124-1 at 2. The only
23 motion before the Court is Defendant's motion to seal. The Government responded with an
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1 explanation of the events as Government Counsel remember them and deferred to the Court on
2 the motion to seal.

3 As an initial matter, there is a strong presumption of public access to judicial records.
4 *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006). Local Criminal
5 Rule 55(c) requires a motion to seal to “set forth a specific statement of the applicable legal
6 standard and the reasons for keeping a document under seal, with evidentiary support from
7 declarations when necessary.” CrR 55(c).

8 The instant motion includes scant reasoning to justify a denial of public access, providing
9 a single, conclusory sentence regarding the interests warranting sealing and no information as to
10 why, for example, redacting portions of the letter would be insufficient. *See* Dkt. No. 123. The
11 Court is unable to determine which parts of the letter Defendant believes contain “sensitive
12 personal information,” let alone why the allegations should warrant sealing. *Id.* In short,
13 Defendant has not complied with Local Criminal Rule 55(c).

14 For the above reasons, the Court DENIES the motion to seal (Dkt. No. 123) WITHOUT
15 PREJUDICE. Defendant has leave to re-file his motion in accordance with this Order **within seven**
16 **(7) days (i.e., by March 16, 2023).**

17 The Clerk is DIRECTED to keep Dkt. No. 124 under seal pending receipt of further
18 instructions from the Court. Failure to timely re-file the motion to seal will result in the unsealing
19 of the document.

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21 Dated this 9th day of March 2023.

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23 _____
24 Tana Lin
United States District Judge